

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 7, 18, and 29. Claims 1-6, 9-17, 19-28, and 30-35 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 7, 18, and 29 were objected to but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this response, claims 7, 18, and 29 have been amended, and claims 1-6, 9-17, 19-28, and 30-35 have been canceled.

By this response, claims 1-6, 9-17, 19-28, and 30-35 have been canceled to expedite allowance of the remaining claims. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims and other described subject matter in one or more continuing applications.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claims 7, 18, and 29, the Applicant has rewritten these claims in independent form, incorporating the limitations of original claim 16. The Applicant submits that claims 7, 18, and 29 should be in condition for allowance over the cited art.

Claim 6 was objected to due to a typographical error. Claim 6 has now been canceled.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13-14, 16-17, 19-28, and 30-35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Davis (U.S. Patent No. 6,401,208).

Claims 1, 13, and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Helbig (U.S. Patent No. 6,564,326).

Claims 1, 13, and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hannah (U.S. Patent No. 6,735,696).

The Applicant submits that these rejections are now moot in light of the above claim amendments and declines to address these rejections further at this time. The Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims and address these and other rejections in one or more continuing applications.

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7, 18, and 29 are allowable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In general, the Office Action makes various statements regarding the pending claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, the Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, the Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statement should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Christopher N. George/
Christopher N. George
Reg. No. 51,728

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 W. Madison Street
34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Phone (312) 775-8000
Fax (312) 775-8100